

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11162 032008Z

71

ACTION SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: GW, XT, TSPA

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN POST-APOLLO PROGRAM

ON AUGUST 1, THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE:

"1. FEDERAL MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, PROFESSOR
HORST EHMKE, WHO HAD INTERRUPTED HIS VACATION TO ATTEND THE
EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE AT BRUSSELS, CONSIDERS THE CONCLUSIONS
REACHED AT THE CONFERENCE A LIMITED SUCCESS.

"2. EVEN THOUGH THE CONFERENCE HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO COME
TO FINAL CONCLUSIONS, IT HAS KEPT OPEN THE WAY FOR REALIZATION
OF THE SPACE PROGRAM DECIDED UPON IN DECEMBER 1972.

"3. THE CONFERENCE, ALREADY POSTPONED ON JULY 12, HAD BEEN
IN AN EVEN MORE DIFFICULT POSITION THAN AT THE TIME OF POST-
PONEMENT, SINCE UNEXPECTEDLY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT
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PAGE 02 BONN 11162 032008Z

ABLE TO BINDINGLY CONFIRM ITS SCHEDULED 20 PERCENT PARTICIPATION

IN THE SPACE LAB PROJECT AND TO CONCLUSIVELY COMMENT ON THOSE OTHER PROJECTS AWAITING DECISION.

"4. FOR THIS REASON, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO COME TO A FINAL DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPACE PROGRAM AGREED UPON DURING THE DECEMBER 1972 BRUSSELS CONFERENCE. MINISTER EHMKE EMPHASIZED THAT THE REALIZATION OF THIS PROGRAM NOW DEPENDS ON THE PENDING DECISION OF THE ITALIAN AND A NUMBER OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO CLOSE THE EXISTING FINANCIAL GAPS IN THE THREE PROJECTS COVERED BY THIS PROGRAM (SPACE LAB, L III S, MAROTS). THE CONFERENCE HAS ADDRESSED AN URGENT APPEAL TO THESE GOVERNMENTS TO THIS EFFECT.

"5. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AT ALL TIMES HAS MAINTAINED ITS POSITION OF A CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION TO ALL THREE PROJECTS, THEREBY ASSISTING IN THE PROGRESS ALREADY MADE BY THE EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE."HILLENBRAND

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